

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending and under consideration.

An amendment was filed on September 4, 2003 in response to the Office Action of June 4, 2003. This is a supplemental amendment to the amendment filed on September 4, 2003. Additionally, this amendment addresses certain issues raised in the Office Action mailed on October 15, 2003. In particular, Applicants believe this copy addresses the Examiner's comments that the previous amendment was illegible due to "bad quality of the fax." Applicants believe this copy is legible and request that the Examiner please contact Applicants if it is not.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled and replaced by new independent claims 17 and 18. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-14, and 16 have been amended.

Independent claims 17 and 18 recite a gel electrolyte comprising: a nonaqueous electrolyte solution obtained by dissolving electrolyte salt containing Li in a nonaqueous solvent, and a matrix polymer prepared by polymerizing monomer, the monomers comprising: a vinylidene fluoride; a hexafluoropropylene; and a carboxyl moiety containing monomer, wherein the matrix polymer is an ester, a carboxylic acid anhydride or both.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Katsurao nor Kuzuro teach a matrix polymer prepared by polymerizing a vinylidene fluoride, a hexafluoropropylene and a carboxyl moiety containing monomer. Katsurao discloses a solid polymer electrolyte formed from a crosslinked vinylidene fluoride copolymer. Kuzuro discloses a polymer electrolyte by providing a polymer composition formed of a reacting vinylidene fluoride-based polymer and a carboxyl group and/or an epoxy group, and at least one vinyl group. (Kuzuro abstract). None of the cited references disclose or even suggest a matrix polymer prepared by polymerizing a vinylidene fluoride, a hexafluoropropylene and a carboxyl moiety containing monomer.. (Spec. page 11) Thus, Katsurao and Kuzuro do not anticipate claims 1 and 8 of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claimed invention is not anticipated by the applied references as suggested by the Examiner.

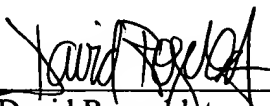
Claims 2-5, 7, 9-14 and 16 all depend directly from claims 17 and 18 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 8 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit these rejections have been overcome and request that they be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims 2-5, 7, 9-14 and 16-18 are patentable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

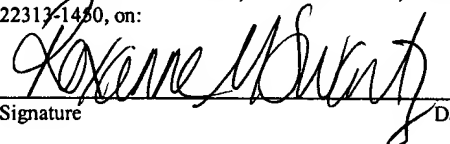
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